

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A capping assembly engageable with or engaged with a necked container, said assembly being or having

a first component in the form of a unitary moulding adapted to define a detachable overcap and at least a skirt, the skirt being adapted to engage or engaging the exterior of the neck of a suitable said container,

a second component at least in part located within said first component, and

a nozzle component carried through the second component yet moveable relative to the second component such that,

in one relative condition, (“the non-dispensing condition”), the nozzle component together with the surrounding second component, is adapted to provide closure of the mouth of a suitable said container or provides closure of the container, and

in another condition, (“the dispensing condition”), of the nozzle component relative to the second component, is adapted to provide for such a suitable said container, or provides for the container, a liquid egress passageway,

and wherein the second component and the nozzle component, when in the non-dispensing condition, define together with the first component a fully enclosed space about part of said nozzle component.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The capping assembly of claim 1 wherein said skirt of the first component is internally threaded as the adaptation to engage or the means by which it is engaged with the exterior of the neck of a suitable said container.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first component includes a tear strip or other frangible feature whereby the detachable overcap can be separated from the skirt thereby to allow access to that part of said nozzle component hitherto presenting to said closed space.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 3

Claim 4 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 whereby when not in the non-dispensing condition the nozzle component is to be or is above a disc seal of the mouth of a container to which it is associated.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein in the non-dispensing condition, a disc seal for a container for which the assembly is adapted is carried below the nozzle component and the second component within the first component.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein an interference fit with the first component provides peripheral releasable retention of the disc seal.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The assembly on claim 4 wherein a lower periphery of the second component provides or can provide an annular seal on said disc seal.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein said once separated from at least the skirt is adapted to engage with said second component or skirt.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 8 wherein said overcap is adapted to engage with the second component whereby the second component and the nozzle component, when in the non-dispensing condition, define together with the overcap a fully enclosed space about part of said nozzle component.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the skirt has a shoulder peripherally overlapping lapping as a hold down a complementary shoulder of the second component.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 4

Claim 11 (currently amended): The assembly of claim 1 wherein the first component unitary moulding defines a tamper evident collar or a (“tamper band”) dependent from said skirt and/or as an extension of the skirt.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A capping assembly engageable with or engaged with a necked container, said assembly being or having

a first component in the form of a unitary moulding adapted to define a detachable overcap and at least a skirt, the skirt being adapted to engage or engaging from above the exterior of the neck of a suitable said container,

a second component located within said first component from below,

a disc seal member located within said first component below said second component, and

a nozzle component carried through the second component yet moveable relative to the second component such that,

in one relative condition, (“the non-dispensing condition”), the nozzle component together with the surrounding second component, is adapted to provide closure of the mouth of a suitable said container or provides closure of the container, and

in another condition, (“the dispensing condition”), of the nozzle component relative to the second component, is adapted to provide for such a suitable said container, or provides for the container, a liquid egress passageway,

and wherein the second component and the nozzle component, when in or notionally considered in the non-dispensing condition, actually or notionally define together with the first component a fully enclosed space about part of said nozzle component,

and wherein the second component and the nozzle component, when in or notionally considered in the dispensing condition, together with the disc seal member and the first component actually or notionally fully enclose the nozzle component.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 5

Claim 13 (previously presented): The capping assembly of claim 12 wherein the detachable overcap can after separation from the skirt can engage retainably the second component thereby, when the nozzle component and the second component are in the non-dispensing condition, to provide a closed space about the upper part of the nozzle component.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The capping assembly of claim 12 wherein the nozzle component shuttles only between limits of movement corresponding to the dispensing and non-dispensing conditions.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The capping assembly of claim 12 wherein said nozzle component and the second component has a said other condition beyond the shuttling limits of movement of the nozzle component between the dispensing and non-dispensing conditions.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The container closed by a capping assembly of claim 12 herein the disc seal member interposed between said second component and the container provides a closed space about all of that part of said first component within which said nozzle component is disposed.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The container closed by a capping assembly of claim 12 wherein said nozzle component with respect to said second component is in either a dispensing condition or some other condition that does not equate to the same condition as said non-dispensing condition, the dispensing and non-dispensing conditions being those conditions between which the nozzle component is adapted to shuttle.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A closured container assembly containing a liquid, said assembly comprising or including

a container with the liquid, the container having a neck with an open mouth,
a seal member over and sealing the open mouth, and

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 6

a closure assembly engaged to the container about the neck and extending over the seal member sealed mouth,

wherein the closure assembly is defined by

- (i) a first moulding providing
 - (a) an overcap,
 - (b) a frangibly removable region or frangible connection called a (“frangible region”) connecting to a lower periphery of the overcap,
 - (c) an internally threaded skirt connecting to the overcap via the frangible region, and
 - (d) (optionally) a tamper evident collar or (e.g. “tamper band”) severable from the internally threaded skirt,
- (ii) a nozzle providing outlet component called a (“nozzle component”), and
- (iii) an insert to hold the nozzle component so that it can be manually shuttled between a dispensing and non dispensing condition relative thereto, said insert
 - (I) releasably retaining a or the lower periphery of the overcap, and
 - (II) peripherally sealing internally of the first moulding below the frangible region and above the internally threaded region of the skirt,

and wherein when the seal member is no longer sealing the open mouth (whether through removal or rupture), in one condition, (the dispensing condition), the nozzle component and insert component allows liquid egress and, in a second condition, (the non-dispensing condition), the nozzle component and insert component allows at least substantially no liquid egress.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The closed container assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein the liquid egress is first between part of the nozzle component and the insert and thereafter, after entry into at least one inlet in the nozzle out of an outlet of the nozzle.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 7

Claim 20 (previously presented): The closed container assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein the tamper evident collar is present and preferably it severs from the internally threaded skirt upon any substantial attempt to unscrew the threaded skirt from the externally threaded neck of the container.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The closed container assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein the seal member has been brought into juxtaposition prior to sealing the open mouth by having being carried by the first moulding, i.e. preferably the first moulding (i) includes or has included the seal member.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The closed container assembly as claimed in claim 18 wherein provision is made for unscrewing the closure assembly from the container thereby to allow the peel removal of the seal member.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The closed container assembly comprising or including a necked container closed by a capping assembly of claim 1.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of closure of a container so as to provide a closed container assembly as claimed in claim 18, said method including the steps of applying a capping or closure assembly of any one of claims 1 to 15 to the container after filling the container at least to a substantial extent with a liquid and prior to, during or subsequent to such application sealing the or any disc seal or seal member to the mouth of the container.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of closure of a container as claimed in claim 24 wherein the sealing is by adhesive or induction welding after such application.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 8

Claim 26 (currently amended): A closed container assembly containing or to contain a liquid, said assembly comprising or including

a container with the liquid, the container having an externally threaded neck with an open mouth, and

a closure assembly screw engaged to the container about the neck and extending over the mouth,

wherein the closure assembly is defined by

- (i) a first moulding providing
 - (a) an overcap,
 - (b) a frangibly removable region or frangible connection called a (“frangible region”) connecting to a lower periphery of the overcap,
 - (c) an internally threaded skirt connecting to the overcap via the frangibly region, and
 - (d) (optionally) a tamper evident collar severable from the internally threaded skirt,
- (ii) an outlet component called a (“nozzle component”), and
- (iii) an insert to hold the nozzle component so that it can be manually shuttled between (at least) a dispensing and non dispensing condition relative thereto, said insert
 - (I) releasably retaining a or the lower periphery of the overcap, and
 - (II) peripherally sealing internally of the first moulding below the frangibly region and above the internally threaded region of the skirt,

and wherein in one condition (the dispensing condition), the nozzle component and insert component allows liquid egress and, in a second condition, (the non-dispensing condition), the nozzle component and insert component allows at least substantially no liquid egress.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 9

Claim 27 (currently amended): An assembly engageable with an externally threaded necked container, said assembly having (at least)

an overcap defining moulding having an extended skirt with an internal thread adapted to screw engage the external thread of a suitable said container,

an insert component retained or retainable by an array of splines, an array of splines of the overcap defining moulding or the overcap defining moulding, and

an outlet nozzle component carried by the insert and movable relative thereto between at least two conditions, and

(optionally) a seal member for the mouth of an appropriate complementary said container, wherein the overcap defining moulding, insert component, nozzle component are preassembled or associated such that at least part of the nozzle component and at least some, (preferably most or all) of the insert component is in a substantially enclosed space between part of the overcap defining moulding and the seal member yet the internal thread of the skirt can screw engage the external thread of an appropriate complementary said container to have its mouth sealed by the seal member,

and wherein the overcap defining moulding defines an overcap frangibly detachable in a region of its skirt in a tamper evident manner from at least the insert component retaining region and the internally threaded region of its skirt,

and wherein, when so fitted to an appropriate said container, the overcap can be removed in a tamper evident manner thereby enabling the nozzle component to be moved relative to the insert to thereafter be capable of being shuttled between dispensing and non-dispensing conditions.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein the overcap defining member is moulded in a plastics material.

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 10

Claim 29 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein a circular periphery of the insert component engages in a press fit, tight fit, welded, glued, or other manner with the interior of the overcap defining moulding.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein that engagement for the purpose of retaining the insert component within the overcap prior to engagement thereof with a said container.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein a peripheral lower region of the overcap part of the overcap defining moulding itself is engageable with a complementary part of the insert component such that after frangible detachment in a region of its skirt (in a tamper evident manner) the overcap can be removed therefrom and can, if desired, be replaced or relocated.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein the means of frangible detachment includes a peripheral tear strip between the lower extremity of the overcap part of the overcap defining moulding and that part of the skirt of the skirt.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The assembly as claimed in claim 27 wherein the overcap defining moulding includes as a lower most extension of its skirt a collar defining region adapted to be frangibly detachable as a tamper evident collar or tamper band from that region of the skirt with the internal thread such that should there be unauthorised loosening of the assembly from an appropriate container there is a tamper evident separation of at least of the collar or tamper band from the remainder of the skirt.

Claim 34 (currently amended): An assembly engageable with or engaged with a necked container, said assembly having

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 11

an overcap defining moulding having an extended skirt with an internal means adapted to engage or engaging the exterior of the neck of a suitable said container,

an insert component retained or retainable by the overcap defining member to seal or sealing with the overcap defining moulding, and

a nozzle component carried by the insert and movable relative thereto between at least two conditions one of which effects a seal with the insert component to effect closure of a liquid passageway, and

(optionally yet preferably) a seal member for an otherwise open mouth of or of a said necked container carried in or having been carried in the overcap defining moulding and/or insert component.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A capping assembly engageable with a necked container, said assembly being or having

a first component in the form of a unitary moulding adapted to define a detachable overcap and at least a skirt, the skirt being threaded to engage the exterior of the neck of a suitable said container,

a second component located within said first component,
a nozzle component carried through the second component yet moveable relative to the second component such that,

in one relative condition, the nozzle component together with the surrounding second component, is adapted to provide no liquid egress passageway, (the “non-dispensing condition”), and

in another condition of the nozzle component relative to the second component, is adapted to provide a liquid egress passageway, and

a seal member or (“disc seal”) carried within the first component which provides at least substantial closure of the passageway,

wherein the second component and the nozzle component, when in the non-dispensing condition, define or could define together with the first component a fully enclosed space about part

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 12

of said nozzle component,

and wherein said nozzle component is or can be wholly to one side of the disc seal.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method of providing a liquid dispensing assembly having a container and a closure assembly with an overcap feature for a dispensing nozzle, said method comprising or including

filling said container having an externally threaded neck with a liquid, and engaging with the external thread of the container a preassembled closure assembly to effect closure, the closure assembly having the following features:

- (i) a first moulding providing
 - (a) an overcap,
 - (b) a frangibly region,
 - (c) an internally threaded skirt connecting the overcap by the frangibly region, and
 - (d) (optionally) a tamper evident collar dependent from the internally threaded skirt,
- (ii) a nozzle providing outlet component called a (“nozzle component”), and
- (iii) an insert to hold the nozzle component so that it can be manually shuttled between a dispensing and non dispersion condition relative thereto, said insert
 - (I) being capable of releasably retaining a or the lower periphery of the overcap, and
 - (II) peripherally sealing internally of the first moulding below the frangibly region and above the internally threaded region of the skirt,

wherein optionally said tamper evident collar engages with complementary engagement means of the container such that should thereafter the assembly be unscrewed such collar will be retained or will rupture at least in part from the skirt,

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 13

and wherein in a tamper evident way the overcap can be released reliant on the frangible region.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of providing a liquid dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 36 wherein the preassembled closure assembly includes a seal member adapted to be juxtaposed over an open mouth of the container.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of providing a liquid dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 37 wherein said seal member seals to the container as a result of a welding or like procedure.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of providing a liquid dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 37 wherein said insert in any of the forms of the present invention substantially seals to the overcap defining moulding.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A one piece overcap moulding having
an overcap region,
a internally threaded skirt region, and
a frangible link between the overcap and the threaded skirt region, and
(optionally) a tamper evident tamper band dependent from the threaded skirt region,
wherein there is no perforation in the overcap region, the threaded skirt region nor the
frangible link.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A one piece overcap moulding of or for a drink dispensing container having

an overcap region,
a internally threaded skirt region, and

RESPONSE

U.S. Appln. No. 10/539,776

Page 14

a frangible link between the overcap and the threaded skirt region, and
(optionally) a tamper evident tamper band dependent from the threaded skirt region
wherein where there is or is to be a fluid tight seal between the overcap and other at least
one closure assembly component(s) of and/or of the container itself), at least the overcap region
and its frangible link to the internally threaded skirt region is or will be fluid tight.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The one piece overcap moulding as claimed in claim 41
wherein the frangible link is a band that completely circumvents or substantially completely
circumvents below the bottom periphery of the overcap region (i.e. if it only substantially
circumvents there may for the rest of the periphery be a simple frangible connection between the
overcap region and part of the internally threaded skirt region).

Claim 43 (previously presented): The one piece overcap moulding as claimed in claim 41
wherein the bottom periphery of the overcap region internally includes a bead, lip, shoulder or
the like adapted to act as a retention feature after separation.

Claim 44 (cancelled)

Claim 45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): The combination or kit, apparatus of an assembly of claim 1.